

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium ~~as defined in claim 1~~
provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium, wherein said uneven
pattern surface is formed so that there are no depression portions therein that are completely
surrounded by protrusion portions, wherein the width of the protrusion portions of the uneven
surface in a direction of a track pitch is formed to be narrower than a track width.

3. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium ~~as defined in claim 1~~
provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium, wherein said uneven
pattern surface is formed so that there are no depression portions therein that are completely
surrounded by protrusion portions, wherein at least one protrusion portion formed within a single
track is formed so that the width thereof in a direction of a track pitch is narrower than a track
width, and

at least one protrusion portion formed straddling two adjacent tracks is formed so that the
width of the straddling protrusion portion in the direction of the track pitch is substantially equal
to said track width.

4. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium, said magnetic master medium comprising:

- a substrate;
- an uneven surface provided on a surface of said substrate;
- a film of porous material formed on at least one section of a protrusion portion of said uneven surface, wherein the film of porous material has a surface roughness in the range of $R_p = 0.0001$ to 0.1 ; and
- a pliable magnetic layer formed on said film of porous material,

wherein a rough surface is formed on the surface of at least one protrusion portion of the uneven surface of the magnetic transfer master medium, and said rough surface is formed according to a surface form of the film of porous material.

5. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4, ~~further comprising:~~

- ~~a substrate;~~
- ~~an uneven surface provided on a surface of said substrate; and~~
- ~~a pliable magnetic layer formed on at least one section constituting the protrusion portions of said uneven surface,~~

wherein said rough surface corresponds to a rough surface formed by a surfacing process on the at least one section of the substrate on which the pliable magnetic layer has been formed.

6. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4,
further comprising:
a substrate;
~~an uneven surface provided on a surface of said substrate;~~
a granular material coated onto at least one section of the surface of said uneven surface
constituting the protrusion portions of said uneven surface; and
a pliable magnetic layer formed over said granular material,
wherein said rough surface is formed according to the surface form of the protrusion
portions that have been coated with said granular material.

7. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4,
~~comprising:~~
~~a substrate;~~
~~an uneven surface provided on the surface of said substrate; and~~
~~a pliable magnetic layer formed on at least one section of a protrusion portion of said~~
~~uneven surface;~~
wherein said rough surface is formed as a surface roughness, the formation of which is
controlled by the formation conditions of the pliable magnetic layer.

Claim 8 (canceled).

9. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium ~~as defined in claim 8,~~

provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium, said magnetic master medium comprising:

a substrate;

an uneven surface provided on a surface of said substrate;

a film of porous material formed on at least one section of a protrusion portion of said uneven surface, wherein the film of porous material has a volume ratio in the range of 30-99%;
and

a pliable magnetic layer formed on said film of porous material,

wherein a rough surface is formed on the surface of at least one protrusion portion of the uneven surface of the magnetic transfer master medium, and said rough surface is formed according to a surface form of the film of porous material.

10. (previously presented): A magnetic transfer master medium as defined in claim 4, wherein the rough surface is an uneven surface having depression portions of a depth in the range of 3-50 nm.

11. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as claimed in claim 4 ~~provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium,~~ wherein the channels of the uneven surface have a depth in a range of 50-1000 nm, and

the surface of protrusion portions is ground at least once after the manufacture of the magnetic transfer master medium.

12. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer master medium as claimed in claim 4 ~~provided with an uneven surface for transferring data to a slave medium,~~ wherein the channels of the uneven surface have a depth in a range of 50-1000 nm after the manufacture, and the surface of the protrusion portions is ground at least once after said medium has been used.

Claims 13-17 (canceled).

18. (currently amended): A magnetic recording medium comprising:
a magnetic transfer master medium comprising an uneven pattern formed on a face of said master medium, said master medium being operable to transfer data to a slave medium, wherein the uneven pattern comprises depression portions all of which are at least partially open to adjacent protrusion portions and a width of the protrusion portions in a direction of a track pitch is formed to be narrower than a track width.

Claims 19-21 (canceled).